

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for graphically displaying travel information on an electronic map within a network environment, the method comprising:
receiving an information request based on a flexible set of user-defined travel related criteria from a client, the set of user-defined travel related criteria comprising a departure location, but not a destination location;

processing the information request to initiate at least one inquiry based on the information request and collecting a plurality of responses from an information server, which gathers information from at least one remote server, to determine a solution set to the information request, wherein the solution set is representative of a plurality of potential destination locations, the solution set including ~~includes~~ at least one pair of airports and at least one associated airfare for travel between the at least one pair of airports; and

rendering the solution set sufficient to generate an electronic map overlay for transmission to the client.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of responses is provided from at least one of a server and a mainframe computer system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the flexible set of user-defined travel related criteria is input by a human being on the client and pre-selected at least in part by topic by the client.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein processing the information request includes parsing the information request into a plurality of inquiries for querying a plurality of data tables.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one inquiry is directed to a plurality of data tables generated from a database of information received from at least one of a plurality of information providers.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the electronic map overlay includes directing the solution set to the user that posed the information request.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for distributing travel information in a network, the system comprising:

means for processing a travel information request to generate an inquiry, the travel information request comprising a departure location, but not a destination location;

means for collecting a plurality of responses from an information server, which gathers information from at least one remote server, to determine a solution set to the travel information request, wherein the solution set is representative of a plurality of potential destination locations, the solution set including ~~includes~~ at least one pair of airports and at least one associated airfare for travel between the at least one pair of airports; and

means for processing the solution set to obtain a reply to the travel information request, processing the solution set including rendering the solution set sufficient to generate an electronic map overlay.

8. (Currently Amended) A travel information system, comprising:

a request manager for receiving information from information providers to store in a database, wherein the request manager is capable of processing an information request to initiate at least one inquiry related to the information from the database, the information request comprising a departure location, but not a destination location;

a plurality of data tables developed from the database, which contains a plurality of responses collected from an information server, which gathers information from at least one remote server, to determine a solution set responsive to the at least one inquiry, wherein the solution set is representative of a plurality of potential destination locations, the solution set including ~~includes~~ at least one pair of airports and at least one associated airfare for travel between the at least one pair of airports; and

a web server for transmitting the solution set overlaid onto an electronic map to a

client.

9. (Original) The travel information system of claim 8, wherein at least one inquiry is directed to the data table selected from a group of data tables containing airfare, airfare availability; weather conditions, event schedules, points of interest, and lodging information.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the information server receives information from mainframe computer systems.

11. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the information request is input by a human being on a client computer and is pre-selected at least in part by topic by the client.

12. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the information request is parsed into a plurality of inquiries for querying the plurality of data tables.

13. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the information request is directed to the plurality of data tables generated from the database of information received from information providers.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for providing travel information, comprising:

receiving a request including a departure location, but not a destination location, and a set of user-defined criteria;

determining a plurality of potential destination locations based at least in part upon the set of user-defined criteria;

generating data representative of a map including a set of points corresponding to the departure location and any airports having carrier service from the departure location to the plurality of determined potential destination locations; and

transmitting the generated data representative of the map.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the set of user-defined criteria includes a specified location of interest and a specified distance range in proximity to the location of interest.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the set of user-defined criteria includes a specified dollar limit.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the set of user-defined criteria includes a specified number of travelers that will depart from the departure location.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein generating data representative of a map includes accessing a database for a geocode corresponding to a determined potential destination location.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein generating data representative of a map includes accessing a database for a plurality of city pairs and a lowest available fare associated with each of the plurality of city pairs.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein generating data representative of a map includes querying the database with the geocode corresponding to a determined potential destination location to determine all airports and other locations within a specified range of the geocode.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein generating data representative of a map includes retrieving information from information providers and storing the retrieved information in a searchable database.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for a user to obtain travel information, comprising:

entering a request including a departure location, but not a destination location;
and

receiving data representative of a map generated to include a set of points corresponding to the departure location and any airports having carrier service from the departure location to a plurality of potential destination locations determined at least in part based upon the set of user-defined criteria.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the set of user-defined criteria includes a specified dollar limit.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the set of user-defined criteria includes a specified number of travelers that will depart from the departure location.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the set of user-defined criteria includes a specified location of interest and a specified distance range in proximity to the location of interest.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the information request includes specifying a location of interest and a distance range in proximity to the location of interest.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the information request includes specifying a dollar limit.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein receiving the information request includes specifying a number of travelers that will depart from the departure location.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein processing the information request includes accessing a database for a geocode corresponding to a

destination of interest, the destination of interest being associated with an airport.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein processing the information request includes accessing a database for a plurality of city pairs and a lowest available fare associated with each of the plurality of city pairs, each city of a city pair being associated with an airport.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein processing the information request includes querying the database with the geocode corresponding to a destination of interest to determine all airports and other locations within a specified range of the geocode.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution set includes a plurality of pairs of airports and a plurality of airfares for travel between the respective pairs of airports.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the solution set includes a departure airport and a plurality of destination airports, and an airfare for travel between the departure airport and each of the plurality of destination airports.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the travel related criteria includes a maximum airfare, wherein the information server determines a solution set based on the maximum airfare, the solution set including at least one pair of airports with an associated airfare no greater than the maximum airfare.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the solution set includes a plurality of pairs of airports and a plurality of airfares for travel between the respective pairs of airports.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the solution set includes a departure airport and a plurality of destination airports, and an airfare for travel

between the departure airport and each of the plurality of destination airports.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the travel related criteria includes a maximum airfare, wherein the information server determines a solution set based on the maximum airfare, the solution set including at least one pair of airports with an associated airfare no greater than the maximum airfare.

38. (Previously Presented) The travel information system of claim 8, wherein the solution set includes a plurality of pairs of airports and a plurality of airfares for travel between the respective pairs of airports.

39. (Previously Presented) The travel information system of claim 8, wherein the solution set includes a departure airport and a plurality of destination airports, and an airfare for travel between the departure airport and each of the plurality of destination airports.

40. (Previously Presented) The travel information system of claim 8, wherein the travel related criteria includes a maximum airfare, wherein the information server determines a solution set based on the maximum airfare, the solution set including at least one pair of airports with an associated airfare no greater than the maximum airfare.

41-43. (Cancelled).